

the study of the labyrinth and in the pathology and surgery of the intracranial complications of Otic diseases. Dr. Gleason is to be congratulated on the possession of the happy faculty of presenting facts in a literary style that is at once entertaining, lucid and rememberable. G. W. C.

Nervous and Mental Diseases. By Joseph Darwin Nagel, M. D., Consulting Physician to the French Hospital of New York, Member New York Academy of Medicine, Honorary Member Societe Royal de Belique, etc., Physician to St. Chrysostom's Dispensary. New (2nd) edition, revised and enlarged, 12mo, 293 pages, with 50 engravings and a colored plate. Cloth, \$1.00 net. (The Medical Epitome Series.) Lea & Febiger, Publishers, Philadelphia and New York, 1914.

This book of 282 pages is divided into five parts: Part I, Diseases of the Peripheral Nervous System; Part II, Diseases of the Spinal Cord; Part III, Diseases of the Medulla Oblongata; Part IV, Diseases of the Cerebrum and Cerebral Membranes; Part V, Diseases of the Mind.

It is stated in the preface that one of the chief aims of this small volume is to enable the student to make a quick review of the principal nervous and mental affections. At the end of each chapter follows a selected list of State examination questions. The discussion of each disease is necessarily brief and the book is not intended to supplant the larger and more complete text books on the subject. W. F. S.

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY AND CHEMISTRY.

Edited By FRED I. LACKENBACH.

NOVOCAINE (N. N. R.)

Novocaine is a synthetic chemical—the hydrochlorid of p. aminobenzolyldiethylaminoethanol. It crystallizes from alcohol in colorless needles possessing a melting point of 156° C. It can be heated without decomposition to 120° C. It dissolves in equal parts of cold water, the solution possessing a neutral reaction. In alcohol it dissolves in the proportion of 1:30. Caustic alkalies and their carbonates precipitate the free base from the aqueous solution in the form of a colorless oil which soon solidifies to a crystalline mass, but solution of sodium bicarbonate is miscible with solutions of novocaine without producing either precipitation or turbidity. The aqueous solution of the salt may be heated to boiling without decomposition and remains perfectly clear when kept for days in loosely-stoppered vials. It gives precipitates even in very dilute solutions with the usual alkaloidal reagents—such as potassium mercuric-iodide, picric acid, potassium iodide, etc. It is incompatible with alkalies and their carbonates and the alkaloidal reagents.

Novocaine is a local anesthetic similar in action to cocaine but much less toxic than cocaine, and said to be less toxic than other cocaine substitutes. When injected subcutaneously it is said to exert a prompt and powerful anesthetic action, but the effect is not sustained. This may be remedied by the simultaneous injection of the suprarenal alkaloid. Novocaine is apparently devoid of irritant properties. It is said to be useful in all cases in which cocaine is indicated. Novocaine does not come within the scope of the recently-enacted Harrison Act.

Novocaine appears on the market in the forms of base, the hydrochlorid, and the nitrate. Also in compressed tablets for the convenient preparation

of solutions of various strengths, and in combination with epinephrine.

Novocaine base occurs in powder form and is soluble in oils. It is used in the preparation of oily solutions for nose and throat application—generally in a ten per cent. solution.

Novocaine nitrate is preferred where employed in combination with silver salts—with which it forms no precipitate—as in urethral irrigations, etc. The three per cent. solution is most commonly employed.

Novocaine hydrochlorid is used for the preparation of aqueous solutions which may be sterilized by boiling without decomposition or loss of activity. When epinephrine is added solutions should not be exposed to continued boiling since the active principle of the adrenals loses in activity by continued boiling.

For infiltration anesthesia: solutions of one-fourth to one-half of one per cent. are employed—prepared by dissolving 0.250 to 0.500 gm. novocaine in 100 cc. physiologic salt solution. To this may be added five to ten drops epinephrine solution (1:1000). The one-fourth of one per cent. solution, it is said, suffices to completely anesthetize the thick nerve trunks—as the sciatic nerve, in about ten minutes.

Solutions varying from one-half of one per cent. to two and a half per cent. are employed for local anesthesia—by injecting around the field of operation and by interrupting the conductivity of the nerve trunks which innervate the field of operation.

For lumbar anesthesia: from 2 to 3 cc. of a five per cent. (or from 1.25 to 1.8 cc. of a ten per cent.) solution may be employed—with the addition of five drops epinephrine (1:1000) solution to 3 cc. of the 5%, or 2 cc. of the 10% solution.

For instillations and injection solutions: one-half of one per cent. to two per cent. solutions may be employed—with or without epinephrine. Quantities up to 100 cc. of the weaker solution, it is said, may be safely employed.

In ophthalmology: one to five to ten per cent. solutions are employed—no dilation of the pupil resulting. The novocaine is dissolved in physiological salt solution to which may be added 6 to 8 drops epinephrine solution (1:1000) to each 10 cc.

In Rhino-Laryngology. for anesthetizing mucous membranes five to ten per cent.; and for the larynx and pharynx, ten to twenty per cent. solutions are recommended.

For internal use: novocaine, owing to its feeble toxicity, may be given in doses up to 0.5 gm. (7½ grains) to adults.

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SOCIETY REPORTS

LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

Annual report for the fiscal year ending December 17, 1914.

To the Members of the Los Angeles County Medical Association:

Your Secretary-Treasurer begs leave to submit the following report for the forty-fourth year of the Association, ending December 17, 1914.

Part I.—Report of the Treasurer—Financial Report.

The financial report of the Association for the period, December 18, 1913, to December 17, 1914 (with canceled checks, the check stubs, the receipted bills and the ledgers, for the inspection of the auditing committee), is as follows:

A. Maintenance Income for 1914.

Total amount of 1914 dues received in 1914 was.....\$ 9,763.50

This income is divided as follows:

635 Members at \$15.00.....\$9,525.00

21 Members at \$7.50.....157.50

(These were new members who entered after July 1st.)

5 Members at \$16.00 (One Dollar

Penalty for Delinquent Payments)... 80.00

1 Member at \$1.00.....1.00

(This member from another county society; at the difference in amount of dues.)

Total.....\$9,763.50

Balance carried over from 1913 was.....935.33

Grand total all income during 1914 was.....\$10,698.83

B. Maintenance Expenses of 1914.

1. Paid Assessments to State Society (\$6.00 per member).....\$ 3,984.00

2. Envelopes and Postage.....232.30

3. Printing Bills (some unpaid bills still outstanding).....393.25

4. Hall Rent.....110.00

5. Refreshments at Regular Meetings.....337.50

6. Clerical Expenses.....646.05

7. Branch Refunders for Branch Expenses, and Refunders to Out-of-town Members....750.00

8. Miscellaneous (Stereopticons, etc.).....79.97

9. Telephone Exchange.....2,933.39

10. Prescription Blank Outfits (leather cases and pads).....1,114.41

11. "Thank You" Rubber Stamps.....75.42

Grand total all expenditures during 1914....\$10,656.29

Summary.

Grand total all income during 1914.....\$10,698.83

Grand total all expenditures during 1914.....10,656.29

Balance on hand on December 17, 1914, was..\$42.54

From the above it is seen, that with the institution of the telephone exchange and the larger State Society assessments, that the current income just about carries the Society through its fiscal year, and even then, only by being careful in expenditures.

GENERAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION.

1. Membership. The year 1914, like its predecessors, shows an increase in the number of members, and we trust was marked also by a corresponding amount of increased efficiency in the organization.

During the year, a total of 73 new members were elected; there has been one resignation; and a total of 8 members have been called to the great beyond. There were also six members dropped for non-payment of dues.

At the date of this report, we have on the mailing roll of the Society a total of 668 physicians and surgeons who are resident in Los Angeles County.

It is gratifying to note, that without any special effort to bring into our midst physicians who have come recently into our community, that these men of themselves learn of the advantages of our organization, and seek membership.

It may be again stated, that for the amount of money which each of us pay into our County Society treasury, that none of us can show membership in any kind of a social or professional organization that gives us anything like the same social and professional returns, and certainly nothing like the same amount of material returns for the money which we actually pay in.

Following past custom, there will be mailed in January an application blank to every member of the association; and members are requested to place these in the hands, if possible, of members of the profession who have not yet affiliated themselves with us.

The policy of the Society as regards membership may be stated in simple language as one in which every honest and ethical practitioner of medicine and surgery is cordially invited to affiliate himself with the Los Angeles County Medical Association, to the end of his own betterment, through professional intercourse with other ethical colleagues; and for the better attainment of all those standards which work for the improvement and development of the profession of the healing art as a whole.

2. Programs. The scientific programs have been, we believe, of interest and value. Certainly the splendid attendance at these meetings might be taken as a warrant on the part of the members of appreciation of the work of those colleagues who have given their services as essayists.

Owing to a series of circumstances, the clinical meetings have been crowded out recently, but in the future spring months, we hope to inaugurate these, in regular form.